Energy EFFICIENCY

Bandon Tests Microturbine

As part of the City of Bandon's (Oregon) continuing effort to investigate ways of reducing utility costs, the City is testing a propane-fired microturbine, which is on loan from BPA. The City will use the 60-kilowatt generator for the next few months to provide base data regarding the feasibility and cost effectiveness of generating electricity using microturbine technology.

The microturbine is currently running at about two-thirds of capacity, feeding about 40 kilowatts into the City's electric grid. The unit is fueled with propane, since natural gas is not yet available. A natural gas main line will run to the City limits within the next two years, and could be a potential fuel source for meeting part of the City's future electrical power needs.

The City of Bandon tests BPA's Capstone microturbine at Oregon Overseas Timber. (Photo by Tammy Smith)

According to BPA mechanical engineer Todd Amundson, "The microturbine has run over 200 hours, providing approximately 8,000 kilowatt hours/year of electrical energy to the grid in little over a month of demonstration time." The microturbine is now located near Oregon Overseas Timber

BPA staff worked with City Manager Matt Winkel, electrician Dennis Bork, and conservation specialist Tammy Smith on the project.

-- Todd Amundson (503) 230-5491

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION